

What is claimed are:

1. A device for discriminating valuable papers comprising a conveyer for transporting a valuable paper inserted from an inlet along a passageway to a stand-by position of the passageway;

a validation sensor for detecting optical or magnetic pattern of the paper moving through the passageway to produce detection signals;

a stacking device for stowing the paper moved to the stand-by position by the conveyer into an accumulation chamber;

a drive controller for receiving detection signals from the validation sensor, validating authenticity of the paper and providing the conveyer and stacking device with drive signals;

a battery;

a self-holding circuit connected between the battery and drive controller and capable of being switched between an active condition for supplying electric power to validation sensor, drive controller and conveyer from the battery and an inactive condition for interrupting the power supply;

a trigger element for switching self-holding circuit in the inactive condition to the active condition; and

a shutoff circuit having a control terminal connected to the drive controller for switching self-holding circuit in the active condition to the inactive condition;

wherein the self-holding circuit is switched from the inactive to the active condition to supply electric power from the battery through the self-holding circuit to the drive controller, validation sensor and conveyer when trigger element is turned on;

the drive controller forwards a control signal to control terminal of the shutoff circuit to switch the self-holding circuit from the active to the inactive condition after the stacking device stows the valuable paper decided

as genuine in the accumulation chamber.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the drive controller rotates the conveyer in the adverse direction and switches the self-holding circuit from the active to the inactive condition when the drive controller does not decide the paper inserted from the inlet.

3. The device of claim 1 or 2, wherein the drive controller 2 comprises a timer for counting the time elapse since the trigger element is turned on;

the drive controller switches the self-holding circuit from the active to the inactive condition when the timer has counted a predetermined period of time.

4. The device of any one of claims 1 to 3, further comprising a inlet sensor for detecting insertion of the paper,

wherein electric power is supplied to the inlet sensor and drive controller after the trigger element is turned on;

the drive controller drives the conveyer to transport the paper along the passageway after the trigger element is turned on.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein the self-holding circuit comprises a first switching element connected in series between the battery and drive controller and in parallel to the trigger element; and

a second switching element connected to a control terminal of the first switching element;

wherein a control terminal of the second switching element is connected to the trigger element and shutoff circuit.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein the self-holding circuit comprises a thyristor; the trigger element is connected to a gate terminal of the thyristor; and the shutoff circuit is connected to two main terminals of the thyristor.

7. The device of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the trigger element is operated by opening-closing operation of a cover or by pushing a push button, said cover or push button being provided in the vicinity of the inlet for inserting the paper.

8. The device of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the trigger element comprises an automatic resetting switch or infra-red ray sensor for detecting human body.

9. The device of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the battery can be electrically charged by electric current supplied through outer terminals and a converter connected to an AC power source.

10. The device of claim 1, wherein the trigger element comprises a pulse generator for producing a pulse to switch the self-holding circuit from the inactive to the active condition when the trigger element is turned on.

11. The device of claim 1, further comprising a stack sensor for detecting stowage of the paper into the accumulation chamber of the stacking device to produce a detection signal, and

the drive controller provides a control terminal of the shutoff circuit with a control signal to switch the self-holding circuit from the active to the inactive condition when the drive controller receives the detection signal from the stack sensor.